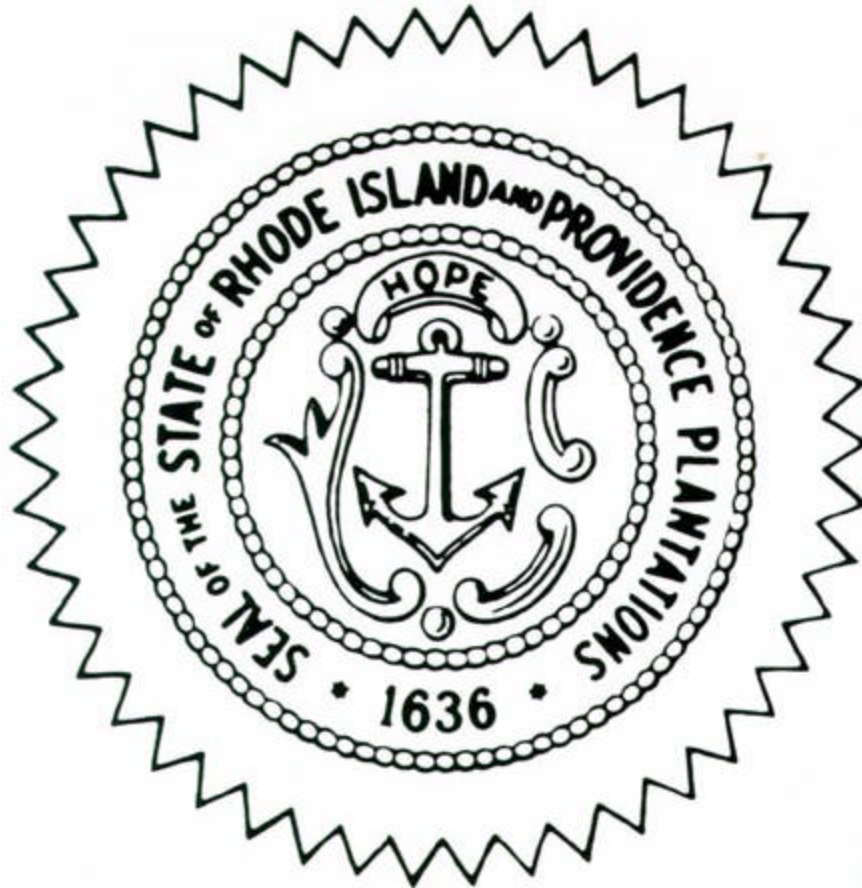


# *Secretary of State Edward S. Inman, III*

ACCESS 2000



*2000 Legislative Session  
Of The  
Rhode Island General Assembly  
Committee Meeting Notice  
Data Summary*

February 7, 2002  
Revised March 5, 2002

## **Sections from the General Laws of Rhode Island, the Rules of the House of Representatives and the Rules of the Senate pertaining to public meeting notices**

### **Rhode Island General Law 42-46-6. Notice.**

- (a) All public bodies shall give written notice of their regular scheduled meetings at the beginning of each calendar year. The notice shall include the dates, times, and places of the meetings and shall be provided to members of the public upon request.
- (b) Public bodies shall give supplemental written public notice of any meeting within a minimum of forty-eight (48) hours before the date. This notice shall include the date the notice was posted, the date, time and place of the meeting, and a statement specifying the nature of the business to be discussed. Copies of the notice shall be maintained by the public body for a minimum of one year. Nothing contained herein shall prevent a public body, other than a school committee, from adding additional items to the agenda by majority vote of the members. Such additional items shall be for informational purposes only and may not be voted on except where necessary to address an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate action to protect the public or to refer the matter to an appropriate committee or to another body or official.
- (c) Written public notice shall include, but need not be limited to posting a copy of the notice at the principal office of the public body holding the meeting, or if no principal office exists, at the building in which the meeting is to be held, and in at least one other prominent place within the governmental unit; provided, that in the case of school committees the required public notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district under the committee's jurisdiction; however, ad hoc committees, sub committees and advisory committees of school committees shall not be required to publish notice in a newspaper; however, nothing contained herein shall prevent a public body from holding an emergency meeting, upon an affirmative vote of the majority of the members of the body when the meeting is deemed necessary to address an unexpected occurrence that requires immediate action to protect the public. If an emergency meeting is called, a meeting notice and agenda shall be posted as soon as practicable and, upon meeting, the public body shall state for the record and minutes why the matter must be addressed in less than forty-eight (48) hours and only discuss the issue or issues which created the need for an emergency meeting. Nothing contained herein shall be used in the circumvention of the spirit and requirements of this chapter.
- (d) A school committee may add agenda items not appearing in the published notice required by this section under the following conditions:
- (1) The revised agenda is posted on the school district's website and the two (2) public locations required by this section at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting;
  - (2) The new agenda items were unexpected and could not have been added in time for newspaper publication;
  - (3) Upon meeting, the public body states for the record and minutes why the agenda items could not have been added in time for newspaper publication and need to be addressed at the meeting;
  - (4) A formal process is available to provide timely notice of the revised agenda to any person who has requested that notice, and the school district has taken reasonable steps to make the public aware of this process; and
  - (5) The published notice shall include a statement that any changes in the agenda will be posted on the school district's web site and the two (2) public locations required by this section at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.

(G.L. 1956, § 42-46-6; P.L. 1976, ch. 330, § 2; P.L. 1981, ch. 182, § 1; P.L. 1984, ch. 372, § 1; P.L. 1988, ch. 659, § 1; P.L. 1998, ch. 379, § 1; P.L. 2001, ch. 360, § 1.)

### **Rule 32(c) of the Rules of the House of Representatives**

(c) The Chair of every committee shall post, in print ~~or~~ and electronically, at least two (2) days prior to any committee meeting, a list by number and title of the bills and resolutions to be heard at that meeting. The Chair shall limit such listings to the number of bills or resolutions he or she reasonably expects can be taken up by the committee at that meeting. Any bill or resolution so posted which the committee is not able to take up at the stated meeting must be re-posted as stated above and shall be placed at the top of such subsequent posted list. Such postings shall be made electronically ~~or~~ and on the House bulletin board. Copies of all posted bills or resolutions shall be provided in print ~~or~~ and electronically to all committee members and principal sponsors. A committee shall not hear any said bill or resolution without such notice except by the consent of a majority of its members and with at least one (1) day's notification to the principal sponsor. The sponsor may, however, waive such one-day notification.

### **Senate Rule 6.2 Committee Agenda -- Posting.**

At least two (2) days before any standing committee meeting, a committee agenda containing the number, title and a short explanation of the bill to be considered must be placed on the bulletin boards provided for such agenda, and a copy placed on the desk of each senator. The rule shall not apply to bills previously passed by the senate and amended by the house. There shall be at least two bulletin boards for such posting, at least one of which shall be for the public's use and shall be under the control and situated at the main entrance to the state library. There shall also be at least one bulletin board for the exclusive use of the senators which shall be situated in a convenient location. For the purpose of this section 6.2 only, all Mondays and days of recess during the session of the general assembly (exclusive of Saturdays and Sundays) shall be considered legislative days.

## **2000 Session Meeting Notice Data**

### **Defined Terms:**

*Notice:* Each separate document received from a standing or joint committee of the General Assembly. This includes additions and time/date/place changes, but not corrections or cancellations.

*Letter=Letter of the Law:* Notices that are received less than 48 hours / 2 days before the date of the committee meeting violate the letter of the law.

*Spirit=Spirit of the Law:* Notices that have more than one hearing date/time listed or give no specific date violate the spirit of the law.

*Violations:* Committee meeting notices that violate the letter and or spirit of the law.

Compliance Methodology: The following formula was used to calculate the percentage of compliance with the Open Meetings Law: The number of meetings held in violation by a committee was divided by the total number of meetings held by that committee, and that figure was then multiplied by 100 to get the percentage of meetings that were in violation. The percentage of meetings held in violation was then subtracted from 100% to get the percentage of meetings by the committee that were in compliance with the law. Here is an example: **A committee held 25 meetings and 1 of those meetings was in violation.  $1/25 = .04 \times 100 = 4\%$  of the meetings were in violation. 4% subtracted from 100% = 96% of the meetings were in compliance with the law.**

Percentages and Grading: Compliance percentages are rounded to the nearest tenth of a percent. Letter Grades are assigned as follows: **A** is compliance of 90% and above; **B** is 80% to 89%; **C** is 70% to 79%; **D** is 60% to 69% and **F** is anything below 60%.

## **House Standing Committees**

**House Corporations:** 34 Total Meetings. 8 Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **77% C**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

50 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 13. Spirit Violations: 0.

April 4 – Rise – 29 bills: Letter

April 5 (add.II) – Rise – 3 bills: Letter

June 7 (add.I) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 15 (add.I) – Rise – 4 bills: Letter

June 22 – Rise – 15 bills: Letter

June 22 (add.I) – Rise – 2 bills: Letter

June 28 – Rise – 4 bills: Letter

June 28 (add.) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

### **House Corporations (cont.):**

June 29 – Rise – 6 bills: Letter

June 29 (add.I) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 30 (add.I) – Rise – 6 bills: Letter

June 30 (add.II) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 30 (add.III) – Recess – 2 bills: Letter

**House Finance:** 84 Total Meetings. 8 Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **91% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

131 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 15. Spirit Violations: 0.

March 2 – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

April 27 – 2:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

May 3 – 2:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

May 24 – 2:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

June 22 (add.I) – 2:00 P.M. – 3 bills: Letter

June 22 (add.II) – 2:00 P.M. – 2 bills: Letter

June 22 (add.III) – 2:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

June 22 (add.IV) – 2:00 P.M. – 2 bills: Letter

June 27 – 2:00 P.M. – 2 bills: Letter

June 29 – 2:00 P.M. – 6 bills: Letter

June 29 (add.I) – 2:00 P.M. – 5 bills: Letter

June 29 (add.II) – 2:00 P.M. – 2 bills: Letter

June 29 (add.III) – Rise – 29 bills: Letter

June 30 – Recess – 4 bills: Letter

June 30 (add.I) – Recess – 5 bills: Letter

**House Health, Education and Welfare:** 27 Total Meetings. 1 Meeting In Violation

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **96% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

36 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 2. Spirit Violations: 0.

June 30 – 5:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

June 30 (add.I) – 5:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

**House Judiciary:** 33 Total Meetings. 7 Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **79% C**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

52 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 9. Spirit Violations: 0.

**House Judiciary (cont.):**

March 9 (add.III) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

April 4 – Rise – 36 bills: Letter

April 5 – Rise – 29 bills: Letter

June 6 – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 15 – Rise – 8 bills: Letter

June 29 – Rise – 2 bills: Letter

June 29 (add.I) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 29 (add.II) – Rise – 3 bills: Letter

June 30 – Recess – 1 bill: Letter

**House Labor:** 22 Total Meetings. 1 Meeting In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **95% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

43 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 3. Spirit Violations: 0.

June 29 – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 29 (add.I) – Rise – 11 bills: Letter

June 29 (add.II) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

**House Rules:** No Meetings, No Violations.

**House Special Legislation:** 16 Total Meetings. 5 Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **69% D**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **94% A**

22 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 4. Spirit Violations: 1.

March 9 – Rise – 2 bills: Letter

March 30 – Rise – 7 bills: Letter

April 27 – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 22 – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

June 28, 29 – Rise – 4 bills: Spirit

**Average Compliance for House Standing Committees:**

**Total Meetings: 216. Total Meetings In Violation: 30.**

Letter Violations: 46. Spirit Violations: 1.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **86% B**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **99% A**

### **Senate Standing Committees**

**Senate Corporations:** 35 Total Meetings. 1 Meeting In Violation

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **97% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

46 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 5. Spirit Violations: 0.

June 30 – 3:00 P.M. – 13 bills: Letter

June 30 (add. I) – 3:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

June 30 (add.II) – 3:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

June 30 (add.III) – 3:00 P.M. – 4 bills: Letter  
June 30 (add.IV) – 3:00 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

**Senate Finance:** 56 Total Meetings. 2 Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **96% A**  
Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

77 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 3. Spirit Violations: 0.  
March 24 – 9:30 A.M. – PUC Budget: Letter  
June 30 – 1:30 P.M. – 6 bills: Letter  
June 30 (add.I) – 1:30 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

**Senate Health, Education and Welfare:** 20 Total Meetings. 1 Meeting In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **95% A**  
Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

21 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.  
June 30 – Recess – 3 bills: Letter

**Senate Judiciary:** 56 Total Meetings. 5 Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **91% A**  
Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

75 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 8. Spirit Violations: 0.  
February 10 – Rise After Budget Address – 6 bills: Letter  
May 18 (add.I) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter  
June 8 (add.I) – Rise – 2 bills: Letter  
June 29 (add.I) – Rise – 1 bill: Letter  
June 30 – 1:30 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter  
June 30 (add.I) – 1:30 P.M. – 6 bills: Letter  
June 30 (add.III) – 1:30 P.M. – 1 bill: Letter

**Senate Judiciary (cont.):**

June 30 – 1:30 P.M. – Confirmations: Letter

**Senate Labor:** 7 Total Meetings. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**  
Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

7 Notices Total, No Violations.

**Senate Rules:** No Meetings, No Violations

**Senate Special Legislation:** 10 Total Meetings. 1 Meeting In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **90.0% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

11 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.

March 15 – Rise – 6 bills: Letter

**Average Compliance by Senate Standing Committees:**

**Total Meetings: 184. Total Meetings In Violation: 10.**

Letter Violations: 18. Spirit Violations: 0.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **95% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

### **Joint Committees**

**Accounts And Claims:** 8 Total Meetings. 1 Meeting In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **88% B**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

11 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.

June 1 – 3:00 P.M. – 32 bills: Letter

**Environment And Energy:** 9 Total Meetings. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

**Environment And Energy (cont.):**

10 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 0. Spirit Violations: 0.

**Joint Finance:** 3 Total Meetings. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

3 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 0. Spirit Violations: 0.



**Highway Safety:** 6 Total Meetings. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

6 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 0. Spirit Violations: 0.

**Naming State Constructions:** 2 Total Meetings. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

3 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 0. Spirit Violations: 0.

**Veterans' Affairs:** 3 Total Meetings. 1 Meeting In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **66.7% D**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

3 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 1. Spirit Violations: 0.

March 23 – Rise – 1 bill: Letter

**Water Resources:** 2 Total Meetings. No Meetings In Violation.

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **100% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

2 Notices Total. Letter Violations: 0. Spirit Violations: 0.

**Average Compliance for Joint Committees:** **94%**

**Total Meetings: 33. Total Meetings In Violation: 2**

Letter Violations: 2. Spirit Violations: 0.

**Average Compliance for Joint Committees (cont.):**

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **94% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **100% A**

**Average Compliance of All Committees for the 2000 Legislative Session:** **90%**

**433 Total Meetings. 42 Meetings In Violation.**

609 Total Notices. Letter Violations: 66. Spirit Violations: 1

Compliance w/Letter of the Law: **90% A**

Compliance w/Spirit of the Law: **99.9% A**

Compiled by Thomas R. Evans,  
State Librarian  
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